Facilities for senior citizens

† 1447. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities including medical facilities being provided by Railways, Banks, Airlines, etc., including the Central Government and the State Governments to senior citizens;

(b) the details of expenditure on such assistance;

(c) whether any *modus operandi* has been fixed for coordination, liasion and efforts with various Departments of Central Government and State Governments for problems and facilities of senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Separate queues for the senior citizens are available at the Government hospitals for registration and clinical examination. All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi are conducting separate geriatric clinics and OPDs for senior citizens. Indian Railways provide 30% fare concession, separate queues at the ticket/reservation counters for senior citizens aged 60 years and above. Air India is providing a discount in fare to Senior Citizens (women aged 63+ and men aged 65+) on domestic routes. Banks are providing higher rates of interest on saving schemes of senior citizens. The expenditure involved in providing these facilities is met by the agencies from their own sources.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government has set up a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) headed by the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment with representatives of various Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments, voluntary organizations, experts, etc., as members for coordination and advice.

Further, an Inter-Ministerial Committee is also set up under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Social Justice & Empowerment) with the representatives of various Ministries/ Departments as members for effective implementation of the action-plans for the welfare of the senior citizens.

Review of projects

1448. SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has established monitoring cells to review the work done/ performance of various ongoing projects of different departments of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether performance of the organizations associated is up to the mark; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment monitors the performance of various ongoing projects

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

being implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, disabled, elderly persons and victims of substance abuse through information in the prescribed proforma, utilizations certificates and periodical inspections.

Appointment in NCSK and NSKFDC

1449. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of the Chairman and members of the Board of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC);

(b) the reasons for not selecting a person of Safai Karamchari Community for the post of Chairman and member;

(c) whether other Commissions like the National Commission for Women, etc. are appropriately represented by the persons who can best represent their cases, if so, why this discriminatory approach in the selection of this Commission; and

(d) why ratio in proper proportion is not maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The selection of Board members of National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is done as per its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and includes representatives of financial institutions / banks and cantonment boards etc. The Chairperson and four Members of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) are nominated from amongst the persons of eminence connected with the socio-economic development and welfare of Safai Karamcharis. One member should be a lady.

(b) to (d) There is no provision to have a representative of the Safai Karamchari community in the NCSK. However, two members belong to the Safai Karamchari community. Hence, the Commission is appropriately constituted.

Schemes for physically and mentally challenged persons

1450. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated new schemes for education, training, rehabilitation and welfare of the physically and mentally challenged people in the country during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the funds earmarked under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech for the year 2007-08, Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced a scheme with an outlay of Rs. 1800/- Crore for the reimbursement of Government's share of Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for a period of 3 years to the employers in the organized sector, for creating 1,00.000 jobs for the physically challenged persons.